(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) As on 1.3.2000, the vacancy position in respect of judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Court was as follows:

Supreme Court of India	—	3
High Courts	—	159

(b) and (c) The filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is a consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges.

Acquisition of land for Super Highway Project

1325. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of North-South and East-West Highway corridors as announced by the Government indicating details of the estimated costs and time-frame for implementation, region-wise;

(b) whether land acquisition for this purpose has been completed; if not, the status of acquisition; and

(c) the plans for rehabilitation of the evicted people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Status of implementation of 21 sections identified on North-South and East-West Corridor project, indicating details of estimated costs and time frame is at Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No.]

(b) No land acquisition is required for these projects.

(c) Does not arise.

Improvement of road link to Somnath

1326. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of pilgrims from all over the country come to worship Somnath in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the road leading to the Temple Town Somnath is in worse condition in the entire Saurashtra region and created problems for the people and pilgrims in particular;

(c) whether the Central as well as the State Government have been reminded in this connection;

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Jetpur-Somnath Road has been declared as a National Highway. It was entrusted to Government of Gujarat only in Oct. 99 for maintenance and development works. Thereafter to improve the condition, 60 km length of this road has been identified for improvement of riding quality under special repair programme and the work is targetted to be completed in 2000-2001.

Damage caused to NH-5 due to Cyclone

1327. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to ascertain the extent of damage caused, requiring immediate restoration to the NH-5 between Cuttack and Balasore in Orissa, devastated due to super cyclone;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's action plan in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for not taking protective measures to strengthen both sides of the NH-5 in the above section where large scale soil erosion has reduced the roads due to flow of rain/flood water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir, The damage caused to NH-5 between Cuttack and Balasore due to super cyclone have been assessed and immediate restoration measures have been carried out. NH-5 was opened to traffic on 6-11-99.